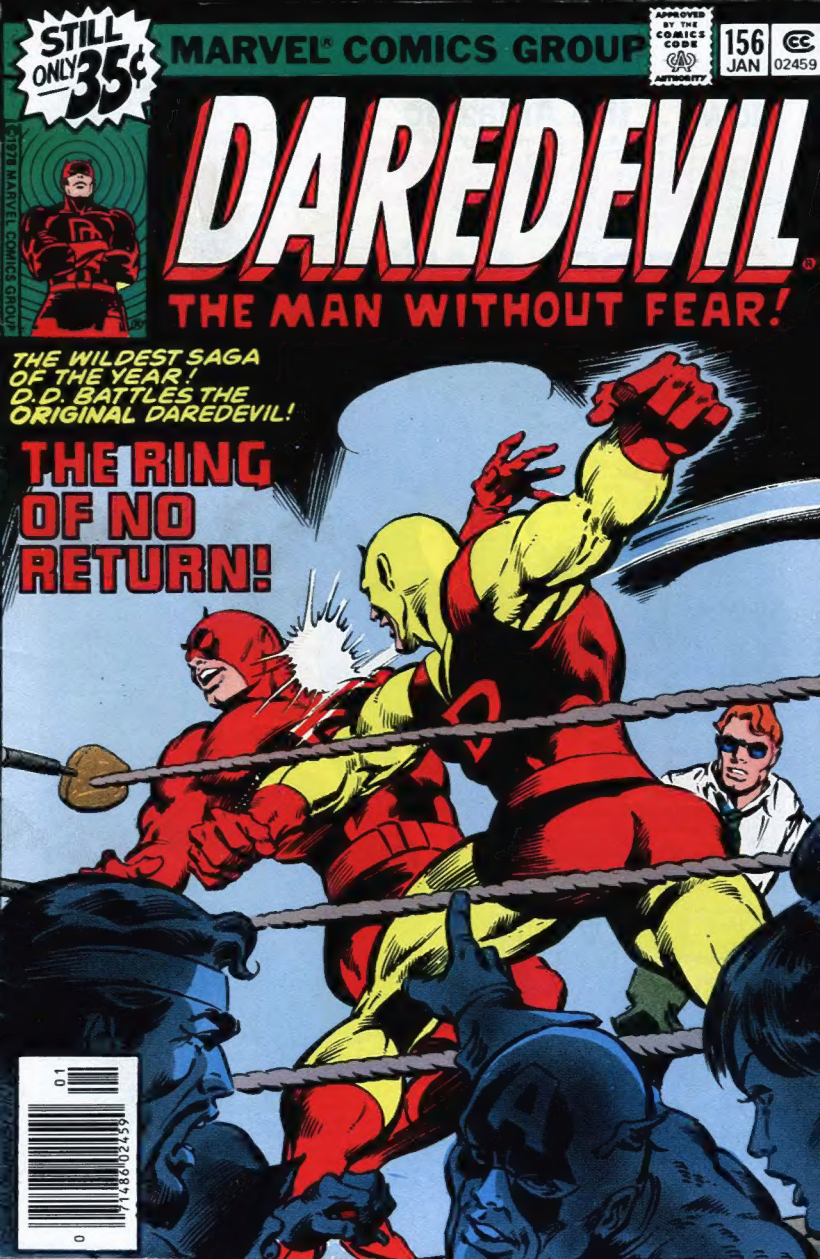
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DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
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THE WILDEST SAGA OF THE YEAR! D.D. BATTLES THE ORIGINAL DAREDEVIL!
THE RING OF NO RETURN!

He dwells in eternal night—but the blackness is filled with sounds and scents other men cannot perceive. Though attorney MATT MURDOCK is *blind*, his other senses function with *superhuman sharpness*—his *radar sense* guides him over every obstacle! He stalks the streets by night, a red-garbed foe of evil!

STan Lee PRESENTS: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!™

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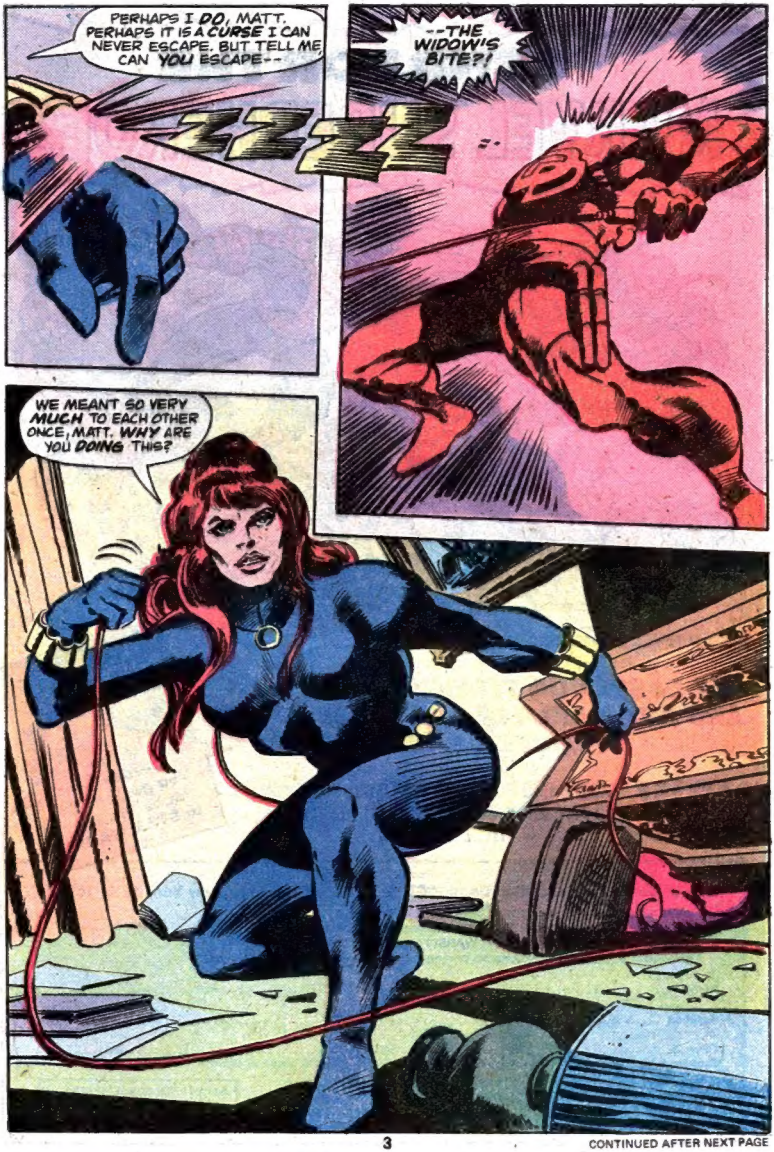
MATT! NO!
TWANG
HIS BILLY CLUB CABLE-- STRANGLING ME--GOT TO MAKE HIM STOP!
S-STOP IT...MATT... PLEASE! YOU'RE HURTING ME!
FOR... GOD'S SAKE...
...LISTEN TO REASON!
D-DON'T PUSH ME... MATT...
SHUT UP, WITCH! JUST ...SHUT UP!
...DON'T FORCE ME... TO FIGHT YOU! I DON'T WANT THAT, MATT!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! YOU DESTROY EVERYTHING YOU TOUCH!



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BECAUSE, WITCH, I WANT YOU!
ZZZZ
WHY?
DO YOU HEAR ME?
SPRAKK
DAREDEVIL WANTS YOU--
--DEAD!
THUNK
MATT--!

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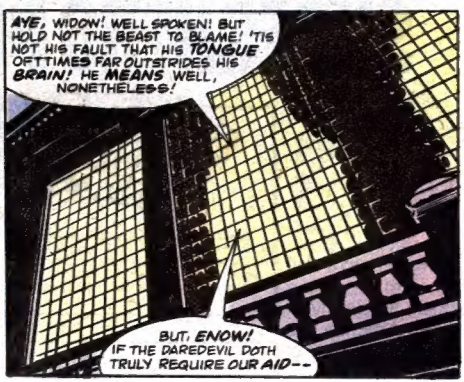
SOMEONE HELP ME, PLEASE! IT'S DAREDEVIL, HE--!

EASY, NATASHA, I'VE GOT HIM!
CAP! HE'S SO STILL--BARELY BREATHING NOW! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
WE WILL, NATASHA, BELIEVE ME. WE'LL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN!

HUH--? NOW JUST A COTTON-PICKING MINUTE! IN CASE YOU ALL FORGOT, HE ATTACKED US!*
I DON'T SEE--!
* LAST ISH--BROADWAY BOB.

NO BEAST, YOU DON'T! YOU DON'T SEE AT ALL!
THE WIDOW'S RIGHT, HANK! DAREDEVIL'S NO VILLAIN!

AND ANOTHER THING, MR. McCOY: YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AN AVENGER! THAT MEANS YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HELP!
MAYBE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THAT--BUT I HAVEN'T!
BUT...BUT...BUT...BUT...


AYE, WIDOW! WELL SPOKEN! BUT HOLD NOT THE BEAST TO BLAME! 'TIS NOT HIS FAULT THAT HIS TONGUE OFTTIMES FAR OUTSTRIDES HIS BRAIN! HE MEANS WELL, NONETHELESS!
BUT, I KNOW! IF THE DAREDEVIL DOTH TRULY REQUIRE OUR AID--

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HEY! WAIT FOR ME!
SORRY ABOUT THE WINDOW, JARVIS, BUT THIS...
SMASH
...IS AN EMERGENCY?! I UNDERSTAND, MASTER BEAST. AND GOD-SPEED. I ONLY HOPE DAREDEVIL IS--!
WELL, I WON'T MINCE WORDS. THE PROGNOSIS ISN'T GOOD. HE'S SLIPPED INTO A COMA--BROUGHT ON BY A SEVERE CONCUSSION!
IF HE DOESN'T RALLY SOON I'M AFRAID HE NEVER WILL! I--I'M SORRY...
A--A COMA--? OH, NO...NO!
I'VE GOT TO GO TO HIM! HE NEEDS ME, HE--!
WHAT HE NEEDS IS REST! YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT--
--ALL OF YOU!
WAIT? WHO ART THOU TO SAY US NAY WHILST A COMRADE LIES GREVIOUSLY STRICKEN?! DOST THOU KNOW TO WHOM THOU SPEAK?
L-L-LISTEN, YOU M-M-MAY BE A...GOD, BUT D-DAREDEVIL'S MY PATIENT! N-N-NOW PUT ME D-DOWN!
P-PLEASE...

EASY, HERCULES! I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT I'M SURE THE DOCTOR KNOWS WHAT'S BEST!
PHYSICIANS --BAH! I TRUST THEM NOT!
BUT WE DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY CHOICE, DO WE?

IT'S BEEN HOURS, NOW! WHEN ARE WE GOING TO HEAR SOMETHING? I FEEL SO--SO DAMNED HELPLESS, I--!
THOU MUST TRY TO BE BRAVE!
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY! DEATH HAS NO MEANING FOR YOU!

NOT SO! HERCULES HATH LOST MANY COMPANIONS TO PLUTO'S COLD TOUCH.
SNAP
HEY! K'NOCK IT OFF, WILL YA?!

HORNHEAD'S NOT DEAD YET--THIS ISN'T A FUNERAL! BESIDES--
--HOW MANY OF US CAN SAY WE'VE TRULY LIVED?
SMAK!
O-OH, MY--!

THAT'S THE REAL CHALLENGE, FOLKS!
TO LIVE! LIVE! LIVE!
H-HUH?

WAIT! YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!
SURE I CAN! ALL I GOTTA DO IS OPEN THE DOOR AND--
--UH, HOW DO, MA'AM. I--

--OOPS!
EEEK! THERE'S A--A SOMETHING IN MY ROOM!

AH, HA! HERE'S WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR! PARDON ME, MADAM, BUT--?

THIEF! SCOUNDREL! OUT! GET OUT, YOU...BEAST!

BY THE GOLDEN SPIRES OF OLYMPUS, WHAT--?
BANGWAY, GUYS!
AND IF YOU SEE A LITTLE OLD LADY WITH A CANE HEADING THIS WAY--
--YOU DIDN'T SEE ME! OK? OK!
HEY, TASHA!
EH--? WHA--?

FOR YOU, FAIR MAIDEN!
OH!
AND--WHAT I SAID BEFORE--ABOUT HORNHEAD. I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN--!

I KNOW YOU DIDN'T, HANK. I GUESS WE'RE ALL UPSET!
YEAH. DON'T WORRY, THOUGH, D D'S GONNA BE JUST FINE! HE'S A REAL...

...FIGHTER... REAL... FIGHTER ...REAL...
HE'S DELIRIOUS! B-BUT WHAT DOES HE KEEP MUMBLING? SOMETHING ABOUT A...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

NO! DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, MATT! I WAS WASHED UP... FINISHED! I NEVER HAD A CHANCE--
--BUT YOU DO! PROMISE ME YOU WON'T GIVE UP--NO MATTER WHAT! PROMISE ME THAT, SON! PROMISE!
I--I PROMISE...
...DAD!
KLANG
THERE'S THE BELL! I CAN'T LET DAD DOWN --NOT NOW!
BUT MY OPPONENT-- I CAN SENSE HIM RE-MOVING HIS ROBE--SLOWLY TURNING TO FACE ME! H-HE SEEMS SO CONFIDENT--SO SURE OF HIMSELF! HE--
--NO! TH-THAT SILHOUETTE! IT... CAN'T BE!
GOD HELP ME, IT CAN'T BE--!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

GIVE UP, MURDOCK! MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF!
DID YOU HEAR ME, MURDOCK?
GIVE IT UP, I SAY!
LIFE JUST ISN'T WORTH ALL THIS PAIN--ALL THIS SUFFERING!
NO! NEVER!
NEVER!
N-NEVER...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Y'know something? I thought I was making life easier for myself when I asked you to send me ideas for things to write about here in the Soapbox. But, you can't win! Now it takes longer to read all the letters than it used to take to think up my own subjects! But, I shouldn't really complain because some of your suggestions and ideas are really great. However, no matter how strongly you suggest it, I absolutely won't trade jobs with Irving Forbush—so stop sending those petitions, huh? (I didn't know ol' Irving had so many friends—who knew how to write!) Anyhow, here's a question that's cropped up in many many of your letters, so I might as well tackle it right now. "How do you explain the fact that mighty Marvel is so much better than its 'Distinguished Competition'?" (Boy, I dunno why I pick the tough ones!)

First of all, while I appreciate the implication inherent in the question, I must—in all fairness—reject it. We do our stories in a certain style, and they do theirs in their own way. To call one style "better" or "worse" is just a matter of opinion. Our competitors, and that includes Archie Comics, Harvey Comics, and Gold Key, as well as D.C., all have tremendously talented and capable artists and writers producing their books. In fact, many people working for other comicbook companies used to work for us at one time or other, and may do so again. A great many of them are long-time personal friends of ours. Some have learned their trade in the Marvel Bullpen, and some have helped to teach us ours.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, sure we want Marvel to be your favorite comicbooks, and sure we'll knock ourselves out to produce the best stories and artwork in the field. But we don't wanna succeed at anyone else's expense. We don't want you to feel you have to knock the other guy in order to be loyal to us. The better our competition is, the more it'll keep us on our toes—and the more you'll profit by it!

Okay, now that I've finished putting in my pitch for *all* the great guys and gals who toil in our little storybook world, let me admit that no one enjoys some friendly rivalry and spirited competition more than we do—just so long as you remember that the watchword is "friendly". Our competitors aren't the "bad guys". They can't help it if Marvel leads the way! (Whoops! There I go again!)

Anyway, now that I've ended my exemplary explation, I promise that next issue I'll give you a serious opinion as to the real difference in editorial approach and attitude between our competitors and Marvel. Remember, it'll just be one guy's opinion, but I think you may find it interesting. So, till then remember—we all need each other. Even a superhero can't do it alone!

Excelsior!

Stan

P.S. After I got this whole thing written, I remembered I said, last ish, that this time we'd answer the question "Is Irving Forbush a real person?" And now there's no room! Well, never fear. We'll get to that after next month's column—that'll give me two more months to figure out the answer myself!

ITEM! Did you hear that Marvel's latest entry in the humor field is becoming the magazine sensation of the year? Fans describe PIZZAZZ as sort of a cross between Crazy and the Lampoon. PIZZAZZ was originally planned just for the younger teenage reader, but you can't keep a dynamite idea under wraps for long—so now everybody's getting into it! It may sound like "pizza" with a couple of extra "z's", but if you really want to blow your mind with the most colorful slick-paper mag in town, just call for PIZZAZZ! Only 75¢! Hurry, before we come to our senses!

ITEM! Let's face it—*nobody* hits a home run every time he goes to bat. Even the mighty House of Ideas can't claim to be perfect. Every single issue of, say, DAREDEVIL or even the FANTASTIC FOUR, flagship of our line, isn't always going to turn out to be as wonderful as we'd hoped. Under the awesome pressure of monthly deadlines, every once in a while, something just doesn't work out right, and we have to settle for a triple or a double instead of the four-bagger. It isn't for lack of trying, guys, believe us! And, of course, it makes us feel all the more proud and happy when the creative combos are clicking, and we do come up with a real bases-loaded circuit blast! Like what, for instance, you inquire? Well-l-ll We're so glad you asked!

ITEM! Marvel Super Special *#7*, featuring the comics adaptation of box office blockbuster JAWS II is without a doubt the most dazzling comics magazine produced in recent history. It may *well* be the most beautiful comics magazine ever created! That's quite a statement, we realize, and yet we make it with utter confidence. In fact, we're so delighted and proud of this masterwork of our craft that we're going to dispense with the hard sell and take the space to thank those responsible. Our sincerest to Gentleman GENE COLAN for his powerful pencilling; to Ingenious IRV WATANABE for his neat, precise calligraphy; to Terrific TOM PALMER for his superb inking, *and* for his stunning, masterful airbrush *coloring* the like of which we have never seen. Thanks also to Battlin' BOB LARKIN for the inspired cover painting, and special thanks and congratulations to offset editor Rakish RICK MARSCHALL who not only coordinated the free-lancers' efforts with the not-inconsiderable contributions of the Marvel Creative Staff, but found time to write the adaptation as well. JAWS II, in full, glorious color is on sale everywhere now! We wish we could just *give* everybody a copy, *we're* that proud, but go ahead, spend the $1.50. You won't regret it.

ITEM! Not content with merely *one* box-office smash adaptation, somehow in the midst of our usual chaos, we managed to fit in *another* full-color Masterpiece! We'll give you a hint: it's about the hottest rock movie of the year, featuring stars like Peter Frampton, The Bee Gees, and George Burns; it's magical, musical and was inspired by the greatest rock group of all time! Those of you who guessed *The Jasha Heifetz Story* can go back to dusting their Rachmaninoff albums. Those of you who correctly assumed we meant SGT. PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND, please step to the head of the class, then out the door and to your newsstand! Take a buck and a half with you, ask for Marvel Super Special *#6*, and *don't* take no for an answer! We can't wait to hear your reaction to the wonderful work of DAVE (the Dude) KRAFT, GEORGE (Pacesetter) PEREZ, JIM (Madman) MOONEY and the rest of our crack creative team!

ITEM! Yes, there's *more*—the most requested encore in Marvel history to be exact! Once again, it's KISS, the fiercest, most fabulous, most frantic rock group *ever*, appearing in Marvel Super Special *#5*! It's in full, blazing color, natch, and you guessed it, it'll set you back a hundred and fifty pennies, but the Bob Larkin cover *alone* is worth the price. Inside, Reliable RALPH MACCHIO, Jet-propelled JOHN ROMITA, JR. and Trailblazin' TONY DEZUNIGA have combined to create a sizzling story with absolutely unbelievable visuals! We've sworn not to reveal the stunning *shock-ending* of the tale, but we didn't promise not to tell about the magnificent bonus *fold-out-poster* in each and every copy. You've got to see it to believe it, but unless you hurry up and grab one, they'll all be *gone*!

ITEM! *Still* more? You bet! We've got yet *another* Super Special (*#8*) coming out any minute, but the whole project is so darn *secret* we dare not to do more than mention it! A word to the wise—watch your TV listings and your local newsstand for BATTLESTAR GALACTICA! Nuff said!

ITEM! Just in case you think we've forgotten our roots, we hasten to reassure you that yes, we still publish our regular line of 35¢ color comics—and make no mistake, we love 'em best of all! We haven't lost our sense of wonder, nor our pride in the magnificent magazines that made Marvel! Check out Daredevil *#156* if you don't believe us, and prepare to be *dazzled* by the Gene Colan/Klaus Janson art! And there's a whole new team giving BLACK PANTHER *#13* a whole new look that's really *worth* a look! FANTASTIC FOUR *#202* features the most demanded guest-penciller ever, (guess who!) and it's just plain great! And if you haven't noticed X-MEN lately, you're missing the most talked about ever-unfolding epic since the Iliad! In this day and age, who'd have believed that 35¢ could still buy all that excitement! So what are you waiting for?

I'LL NEVER GIVE UP! NEVER!

THEN I PITY YOU, MATTHEW MURDOCK, FOR DEATH LURKS IN EVERY SHADOW THIS NIGHT! IN EVERY COLD AND SILENT SHADOW!

AND YET, BIT BY BIT-- BLOW BY SHATTERING BLOW--A MAN TRULY WITHOUT FEAR BATTLES HIS WAY FROM DARKNESS AND DELIRIUM--

--INTO SWIRLING, ANTISEPTIC GRAY--

--AND...LIFE!

NO! WH-WHERE AM I--? HOW--?

DOCTOR! DOCTOR WILLIAMS! IT'S DAREDEVIL, HE--!

HE SLIPS INTO A DEEP AND MUCH NEEDED SLEEP, FOR HE HAS FOUGHT DEATH, AND HE BELIEVES HE HAS WON!

BUT HE IS WRONG...

..BECAUSE HE FAILS TO HEAR THE SUDDEN, HARSH LAUGHTER!

HAHAHAHA!

LAUGHTER FILLED WITH PAIN AND VERY LITTLE HUMOR--

--LAUGHTER AS UNEXPECTED AS THE BLACK-CLAD STRANGER WHO STEPS SLOWLY FROM THE DARKNESS.
I HAVE COME FOR YOU, DAREDEVIL! AS I SWORE I WOULD THAT FATEFUL DAY SO VERY LONG AGO! THE DAY YOU STOLE MY HUMANITY FROM ME AND LEFT ME ONLY TORMENT!
BUT NOW MY PLANS ARE COMPLETE! AND NOW YOU WILL SHARE MY ETERNAL SUFFERING!
FOR NOW YOU WILL KNOW THE TOUCH OF DEATH-STALKER!
THE TOUCH OF DEATH ITSELF!
NEXT
WHO IS--DEATH-STALKER?
THE ANSWER WILL STARTLE YOU!